



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes 04/12/2010

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30PM O'Neill Room Community Safety Building
 4/12/10

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan		Bayer*	Phelps*	Dunn*
DeCoursey*	Connors*	Simmons	Olszewski	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara	Franclemont*	Jones*	Deshler*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

* Indicates present

VISITOR: School Superintendent Kathy Bodie, School Financial Officer Diane Johnson, School Committee Members Joe Curro, Cindy Starks, Kirsil Allison-Ampe, Jud Pierce, Observers Anne Thompson, Barbara Goodman, Richard Corredora

MINUTES of 4/7/10 were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

EDUCATION BUDGET: Bodie, using the material provided the previous week, and supported by Johnson, briefly reviewed revenues & expenses and answered many questions.

REVENUES: Despite the stimulus funds received, revenues were down by \$1.5m to \$2m from the FY10 budget. The anticipated SPED savings from bringing more SPED students into the district, was offset by a large increase in demand. A food service profit was less than budgeted. This has been made good by a hiring freeze, by minimizing expenditures, and by use of part of the FY11 Federal funds received this year. The FY11 revenue projections are conservative (low).

EXPENSES: The "level service" budget was crafted using the "lessons learned" in FY10. Several reserve funds are included to buffer against surprise SPED demands.

There will be no COLAs. The number of teachers will be reduced from 369 to 328. Some salary increases to cover additional duties will be replaced w/ stipends to reduce paperwork. Bodie answered questions about the detailed list of expense reductions provided in the printed material. The material provided a FY10 SPED budget and a separate FY11 SPED budget because, as Bodie explained, the FY11 program differs in detail from the FY10 program.

USE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS: Should the Town decide to appropriate additional reserve funds, Bodie would place them in the SPED revolving fund. She suggested \$550k.

MM TECH: Bodie said the program at Minuteman is excellent but too expensive. She said there are less expensive alternatives. She does not know what would be required to establish such a program in Arlington. Space would be a problem. Members suggested that there may be synergy between academic courses like physics and chemistry and voc-tech courses to train electricians and pharmacology workers.

FUTURE BUILDING NEEDS: Bodie has studied this issue. She provided a 5 yr student population projection.

OTHER: Members suggested the SPED funding problem requires state action. Parents need to lobby the legislature. Members asked if there were any investments the Town might make to ease the SPED problem in future years. Bodie answered that an in-town 45 day facility would save significant money, especially if other communities could send their children & pay tuition.

Bodie & Johnson were thanked by the FinCom.

CAPITAL PLAN: Foskett said changes are needed to account for \$375k cost growth in the Community Safety Building renovation.

COMMITTEE

Jones passed out draft budget pages from the report for review.

The agenda for past & future meetings may be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/fincom

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$508,915.92

Peter B Howard 4/13/10 Revised 4/14/10

cc FinCom Members, Library File, Town Web Site, FinCom Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 2/10	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
20			PAYT	3/17	3/31	Limited support 13-5
24			Tax Checkoff for CoA Transportation	2/24	3/1	No report
26			Double Pole Home Rule Legis			BoS
28			Pension Liability Funding			Report at Twn Mtg
29			Transfer Crosby	3/17	3/31	No report
30			Transfer Parmenter	3/17	3/31	No report
31			Sell Crosby	3/17	3/31	No report
32			Sell Parmenter	3/17	3/31	No report
33			Accept Law Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin	4/7	4/7	support BoS
34			Consolidate Twn & Sch Admin	4/7	4/7	support BoS
36			Dog Control	3/1		BoS
37			Compensation of Selectmen	3/17	3/31	No action
39			Additional Warrant Article notification	3/1		No report
47			Collective Bargaining	3/17	3/17	No action
48			Future Collective Bargaining			
49			Salary Adjustment Elected Officials	3/17	3/17	No action

50		Positions Reclassification	3/31	3/31	\$7,888
51		Vacation Time Bylaw	3/17	3/17	Support
52		Budgets	NA	NA	See next page
53		Capital Budget	3/15	3/15	\$7,959,673
54		Rescind authority to borrow	4/7	4/7	\$10,001,534
55		Sewers	3/17	3/17	\$650,000
56		Water	3/17	3/17	\$1,300,000
57		Minuteman Tech	2/22	3/31	\$2,739,795
58		Minuteman Tech Bond Authorization	2/22, 3/17,31	4/7	No action 14-2
59		Committees & Commissions	2/17, 3/1	2/17, 3/1	\$14,760, \$3000 for ARC
60		Celebrations	4/7	4/7	10,667
61		Misc Appropriations	3/17	3/17	\$16,337
62		Scholarship Fund Expenses	4/5	4/5	No action
63		Pension Adjustment	3/31	3/31	favorable action
64		Safe Routes to School	3/17	3/17	\$0 funded by grant
65		Harry Barber Service Program	2/24	3/31	No action
66		Minuteman Senior Services	2/24	3/31	No action
67		Social Worker	2/24	3/31	18,179
68		Traffic Supervisors	2/24	2/24	No action
69		Water Bodies	2/17	2/17	\$15,000
70		Uncle Sam	2/17	3/1	No action
71		Restore Trees	2/17	3/1, 3/17	No action, Desheler comment
72		Local Option Taxes	3/31	3/31	No action
73		OPEB	3/31	3/31	498,313
74		Tip Fee Stab Fund	3/31	3/31	680,000
75		Transfer of Cemetery Funds	4/7	4/7	\$160,000
76		Overlay Reserve	3/31	3/31	500,000
77		Stabilization Fund	3/31	3/31	1,580,000+
78		Free Cash	3/31	3/31	582,051
STM3		FY10 Appropriations & Budget Transfers	3/17	3/17	No action
STM4		Fire Station Renovation	3/15	3/15	\$4,950,000
STM5		Community Safety Renovations	3/15		

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/22	2/22	10,988	
2	Board of Selectmen	3/24	3/24	359,633	

3	Town Manager	3/8	3/8	417,916	
4	Personnel	3/15	3/15	\$177,896	
5	Information Technology	2/22	2/22	491,878	
6	Comptroller	2/22	2/22	399,044	
7	Treasurer	4/5	4/5	577,464	
8	Postage	4/5	4/5	156,796	
9	Assessors	4/7	4/7	307,598	
10	Legal	3/1	3/1	409,316	
11	Town Clerk	3/8	3/8	234,810	
12	Registrar of Voters	3/8	3/8	59,873	
13	Parking	4/5	4/5	106,460	
14	Planning	3/8	3/8	231,352	
15	Redevelopment Board	3/8	3/8	270,454	
16	Zoning Board of Appeals	2/24	2/24	23,890	
17	Public Works	3/24	3/24	6,595,734	
17g	Street Lights	3/8	3/8	418,893	
18a	Community Safety Admin	3/24	3/24	386,246	
18b	Police	3/24	3/24	5,687,196	
18c	Fire	3/1	3/1	5,463,081	15-1
18d	Support	3/24	3/24	708,384	
19	Inspections	3/8	3/8	367,894	
20	Education	3/29			
21	Library	2/22	2/22	1,888,852	12-1
22a	Health & Human Services	3/24	3/24	287,436	
22b	Veterans	3/15	3/15	326,568	
22c	COA	3/15	3/24	148,928	
23	Retirement	3/8	3/8	7,003,065	
24	Insurance	4/5	4/5	19,367,863	
25	Reserve Fund		4/5	600,000	=
W&S EF	Rev 16733559 Exp 16733559	4/5	4/5	0	
Rec EF	Rev 563,228 Exp 562,340	4/7	4/7	-948	
Rnk EF	Rev 552,000 Exp 539,364	4/7	4/7	-12,636	
COA EF	Rev 124,292 Exp 114,973	4/7	4/7	-9,319	15-1
Youth EF	Rev 16,000 Exp 166,451	4/7	4/7	150,451	

